



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

August 16, 2019

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: August 20, 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **August 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A on the first floor.

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the June 18, 2019 AAC meeting are attached.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site. I will bring copies of the minutes, agenda, and other attachments.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
August 20, 2019 Agenda

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from June 18, 2019.
3. Update on the Farm Alcohol Production Facilities-The DPS is still working on the Memorandum of Understanding between the OAG and the Department of Permitting Services to assist with the implementation of Farm Alcohol Production. **Please see the attached Agricultural Producer Certificate for Farm Alcohol Production.** The OAG met with the County Executive to propose a local bill for the 2020 General Assembly. This bill would allow agricultural buildings used for agricultural tourism including farm alcohol production tasting rooms for occupancies of 50 people or 200 people. The CE alternatively recommended changes to Chapter 50 Subdivisions to waive the record plat requirement for farm properties that have commercial buildings used for agritourism.
4. The MNCPPC reassigned the Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-ASAC to the Division of Research and Special Projects. The ASAC met on May 29, 2019 and again on June 26, 2019. The Planning Staff briefed the Planning Board on the Agritourism Study on July 11, 2019. The ASAC will meet on September 16, 2019 @ 5:30pm. Please note that Jeremy is meeting with Jessica McVary of MNCPPC on August 26, 2019 to review the draft recommendations.
5. The Sugarland Broadband Pilot Phase II of the project coming down Sugarland Road is scheduled to begin in September. Comcast has informed they will only install aerial pole to pole and no more underground. This will negatively impact residents that live along the southern portion of Montevideo Road to River Road. We are continuing to make progress on the residents that have not signed the comcast easement and this may negatively impact other residents downstream (Weitzer family) that want the Comcast Service. <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html>
6. Update on the River Road Improvements- The County Executive Staff responded that the County will only apply magnesium carbonate on the River Road surface to reduce dust. The OAG proposes that a second community meeting be sponsored by the AAC, MCFB, and MAP at AHFP and all stakeholders should be invited to attend.
7. The Planning Housing and Economic Development-PHED Committee discussed Pesticide Use in Parks on July 8, 2019. The PHED specifically mentioned that Bill 52-14 Pesticide Prohibitions contains an exemption for pesticides used for agricultural purposes on both private and public properties.
8. Montgomery County's Agricultural Land Preservation Certification Report for FY15-18 has been approved by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

9. Councilmember Tom Hucker sponsored Bill 24-19 Landlord-Tenant Relations-Obligations of Landlord-Air Conditioning. The Public Hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2019. Please click on the link to access the staff report.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/resources/files/lms/bill/2019/Introduction/pdf/7177_2620_Introduction_07122019.pdf

54 (9) Supply and maintain air conditioning service either through
55 individual air conditioning units or a central air conditioning
56 system in a safe and good working condition so that it provides an
57 inside temperature of eighty degrees Fahrenheit (80° F.) or less
58 between May 1 and September 30. This subsection does not
59 impair any provision in a lease that obligates a tenant to pay for
60 gas or electricity that the tenant uses.

10. The 30th Annual Farm Tour was held July 27 and 28 and the weather was pleasant, and we received many positive comments and feedback from the participating farmers.
11. The County Council Craig Rice will be presenting Proclamations on September 17, 2019 for the 100th Anniversary of Montgomery County Farm Bureau and to recognize Bob Stabler for the 2018 Ag Center Leadership Award and to recognize the Ben Allnutt Family for the Montgomery County Agriculture Hall of Fame. This event will consist of a breakfast with the County Council and farmers and the presentation of the Proclamations.
12. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-September 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-August 20, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-September 3, 2019 @ 7:00pm
Montgomery Co Agricultural Preservation Ad Board-September 10, 2019@ 7:00pm
Soil Conservation Cooperators Dinner-Dr. Charles Mess-September 11, 2019@ 6:00pm
Mont Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-September 13, 2019@ 9:00am
Agritourism Advisory Committee-September 16, 2019@5:30 pm AHFP
County Council Breakfast and Proclamations-September 17, 2019 @ 8:00am
Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-September 17, 2019 @7:00 pm
Poolesville Day-September 21, 2019
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Farm to Table Dinner-September 21, 2019